

in the latter two localities are given by O.M. Stewart in BSBI *Scottish News Letters* Nos 4 and 5 (1982, 1983). It is difficult to imagine how and from whence this alien species came to be established on this stretch of beach some distance from any house or garden. The sandy habitat and association with Marram and Lyme grass is a common feature of all three localities. A herbarium specimen has been placed in the Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove.

**Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)
new to Ailsa Craig**

B. ZONFRILLO

A strong-growing clump of this common plant was found in July 1994 growing near to the Gashouse building on Ailsa Craig, Ayrshire, V.C.75. It was on light soil among small boulders and was rather slender in appearance with thin leaves. This is the first record for the island and is additional to the recent list published in this journal (Zonfrillo, 1994; *Glasg.Nat.* 22: 307-344;). A few of the 10 or more stems were preserved and added to the other Ailsa Craig specimens in the herbarium of the Botany Department, Glasgow University.

Betony in Lanarkshire

P. MACPHERSON

In a previous article (Macpherson, 1994) I recorded plants seen in 1993 on an area of base-rich grassland at New Stevenston, Lanarkshire (V.C.77). During a visit in 1994 a further rarity was noted. There was one plant of Betony (*Stachys officinalis*) with four flowering spikes.

The first mention of the occurrence of Betony in V.C.77 was by Hopkirk (1813) who wrote of it (as Wood Betony - *Betonica officinalis*) "in woods, not infrequently". As his *Flora Glottiana* was "a Catalogue of the Indigenous Plants on the Banks of the River Clyde and in the Neighbourhood of the City of Glasgow" by implication the plant was to be found not infrequently in Lanarkshire. In 1832 Patrick wrote of *B. officinalis* as occurring in an island on the Clyde at Nethanfoot.

Hennedy (1865) considered Wood Betony to be very rare commenting that a few plants used to grow in Kenmuir Wood, Cambuslang Glen